

Arlington Human Rights Commission
Minutes, June 15, 2016
Jefferson Cutter House, 8:00 PM
Christine Carney, Chair

Present: Christine Carney, Marlissa Briggett, Ghandi DiFiglia, Mel Goldsipe, Wendy Bell, Gary Horowitz, William Logan, Christopher Huvos.
Absent: Sheri Baron, Yawa Degboe, Sharon Grossman, Nick Minton, Jorge Loayza

There were no citizens present for the citizens open forum.

The May minutes were discussed. Commissioner Briggett suggested we provide incoming complaints with numbers to be used as references in the minutes. Due to absence of commissioners who were present at the May 19, 2016 and the need for their clarification for some items in the May minutes Commissioner Briggett moved table the acceptance of the May minutes until the July meeting. Commissioner Goldsipe seconded. The vote was unanimous to table the acceptance of the May 19, 2016 minutes to July, 2016.

Chair Carney indicated she had reached out to Town Moderator John Leone regarding the potential opening he is responsible for appointing. In discussing potential openings, Commissioner Goldsipe suggested we reach out to each of the faith communities to help with recruitment. Commissioner Bell has generated a list of the faith communities.

Commissioner Goldsipe assigned minute taking and voice mail checking to the following Commissioner over the coming months:

June – Commissioner Briggett

July - Commissioner Logan

August – Commissioner Baron

September – Commissioner Briggett

October – Commissioner Minton

November – Commissioner Huvos

December – Commissioner Bell

Chair Carney will send out instructions for checking the voice mail shortly. There was discussion regarding the summer meeting months. At least four Commissioners are out of town in August and a couple will not be able to attend the July meeting. Chair Carney will make a determination about whether a monthly summer meeting should be cancelled, based upon the likelihood of a quorum and whether there are any recent incidents that need to be discussed in a timely manner.

Chair Carney and Commissioner DiFiglia reported on the the Civil Rights and Cultural Competency in Education forum which they attended on May 26 at Nashoba Tech.

Commissioner Goldsipe is waiting to hear from former commissioner Robin Varghese about help with the LGBTQIA+ survey and whether he can help us work with the data. Commissioner Goldsipe just learned that Vision 20/20 would like a report done this summer and she will attempt to work on it. She asked that we review the survey and let her know any questions we have and any particular types of data we would like to see, in particular which questions we'd like to see correlations between. She will email the survey out to the Commission so we can see the questions.

June 24 is our event with Mystic LGBTQIA+ Youth Support Network (aka Queer Mystic) & True Story Theater, which will focus on youth's stories of growing up queer in this area and how adults can make it easier. Commissioners Huvos & Bell are planning to attend and assist with setup. More are welcome. Commissioner Goldsipe will send out the invite to the Commission. Commissioner Goldsipe moved that we allocate up to \$75 toward refreshments for the event. Commissioner Briggett seconded. All were in favor.

Commissioner Goldsipe attended and spoke at the May 23 meeting of the Board of Selectmen regarding changing the Board's name to a gender-neutral name. The townsperson who originally requested the name change did not attend the meeting but emailed Commissioner Goldsipe afterwards and would like to push forward with trying to get the name changed. Commissioner Goldsipe indicated the Board was not supportive but agreed to talk about it their upcoming meeting with the Town Manager.

The AHRC Rules and Regulations update was tabled until fall when the results of the Town Meeting would be certified by the Attorney General.

There was nothing to report by the subcommittees.

Chair Carney will submit receipts for reimbursement.

Commissioner Briggett moved that we change the September meeting date to fall before Town Day, on September 14. Commissioner Goldsipe seconded it. It was unanimously approved.

Community Happenings:

The Commission discussed the Orlando LGBTQ nightclub mass shooting tragedy and the Commission and town's response to it. Commissioner Goldsipe also noted that the Queer Mystic was celebrating its one-year anniversary today and could not be present for the AHRC discussion. Responses to the tragedy were discussed. Commissioner Baron had suggested a community picnic with several speakers. Commissioner Briggett moved to offer up to \$500 to the Response Coordination Team to plan a community picnic in response to the Orlando tragedy. Commissioner Goldsipe seconded. Commissioner Huvos abstained, all others approved.

The June 24 True Story/Queer Mystic event is an example of the importance of keeping this work ongoing.

Butterfly Music Transgender Chorus is hosting a celebration and short performance on June 23 at Workbar. There is space for a limited amount of Commissioners to attend. Commissioner Goldsipe passed along the information.

Commissioner Briggett moved that we give the chair/co-chair/vice chair and their designees the authority to approve co-sponsorship of events with other organizations provided it falls within our mission and requires no funding or other resources. Commissioner DiFiglia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:45, Commissioner Horowitz moved to adjourn, with Commissioner Goldsipe seconding and unanimous voting in favor of the motion.

Submitted by Commissioner Marlissa Briggett